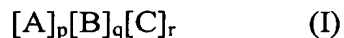


IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Amended): A multimetal oxide material of the formula I



where

A is $\text{Mo}_{12}\text{V}_a\text{X}^1_b\text{X}^2_c\text{X}^3_d\text{X}^4_e\text{X}^5_f\text{X}^6_g\text{O}_x$,

B is $\text{X}^7_1\text{Cu}_h\text{H}_i\text{O}_y$,

C is $\text{X}^8_1\text{Sb}_j\text{H}_k\text{O}_z$,

X^1 is W, Nb, Ta, Cr and/or Ce,

X^2 is Cu, Ni, Co, Fe, Mn and/or Zn,

X^3 is Sb and/or Bi,

X^4 is Li, Na, K, Rb, Cs and/or H,

X^5 is Mg, Ca, Sr and/or Ba,

X^6 is Si, Al, Ti and/or Zr,

X^7 is Mo, W, V, Nb and/or Ta,

X^8 is Cu, Ni, Zn, Co, Fe, Cd, Mn, Mg, Ca, Sr and/or Ba,

a is from 1 to 8,

b is from 0.2 to 5,

c is from 0 to 23,

d is from 0 to 50,

e is from 0 to 2,

f is from 0 to 5,

g is from 0 to 50

h is from 0.3 to 2.5,

i is from 0 to 2,

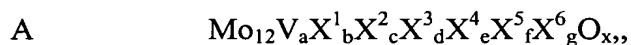
j is from ~~0.1~~ 0.05 to 50,

k is from 0 to 50,

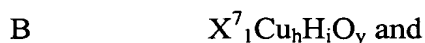
x, y and z are numbers which are determined by the valency and frequency of the elements other than oxygen in (I) and

p, q and r are numbers other than zero, with the proviso that the ratio p/(q+r) is from 20:1 to 1:20, and the ratio q/r is from 20:1 to 1:20,

which contains the moiety $[A]_p$ in the form of three-dimensional regions A having the chemical composition



the moiety $[B]_q$ in the form of three-dimensional regions B having the chemical composition

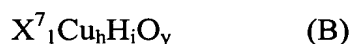


the moiety $[C]_r$ in the form of three-dimensional regions C having the chemical composition

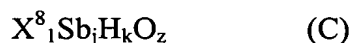


the regions A, B and C being distributed relative to one another in the same way as in a mixture comprising finely divided A, finely divided B and finely divided C.

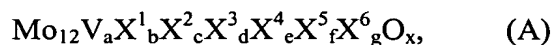
Claim 2 (Original): A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein a multimetal oxide material B



as starting material 1 and a multimetal oxide material C



as starting material 2 are preformed separately in finely divided form and the starting materials 1 and 2 are then brought into intimate contact with suitable sources of the elemental constituents of the multimetal oxide material A

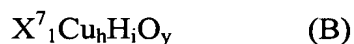


in the desired ratio, and a resulting dry blend is calcined at from 250 to 500°C.

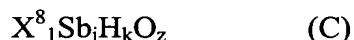
Claim 3 (Previously Amended): A process for the gas-phase catalytic oxidative preparation of acrylic acid from acrolein, which comprises carrying out the oxidative preparation with a multimetal oxide as claimed in claim 1 as the catalyst in contact with acrolein.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled).

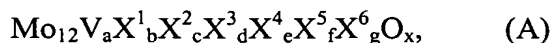
Claim 6 (New): A process for the preparation of a multimetal oxide material as claimed in claim 1, wherein a multimetal oxide material B



as starting material 1 and a multimetal oxide material C



as starting material 2 are preformed in association with one another in finely divided form and the starting materials 1 and 2 are then brought into intimate contact with suitable sources of the elemental constituents of the multimetal oxide material A



in the desired ratio, and a resulting dry blend is calcined at from 250 to 500°C.